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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Recruitment of Polish Doctors

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. There is a severe shortage of doctors in Poland, and this affects the army. According to regulations, a doctor who belongs to the Polish Medical Military Reserve can be called up for service at any time for a period varying between six months and three years, and this affects doctors who have never been in the army at all. Only outstanding scientists and those with high level political connections are exempt from this recruitment.

2. There are five general groups of doctors in the Polish Army. The first consists of graduates of the Akademia Medyczna in Lublin, which trains doctors directly for military service, giving them military as well as medical education.

3. The second group consists of students from the civilian medical schools. During their studies they can be drafted for military service, but those called are tested politically. Theoretically, they can refuse to serve, but those who do so are expelled from the medical school and are refused admission to any other.

4. The third group consists of volunteers from among the NCOs or enlisted, usually of the medical corps. They are given a rapid course of training for service as doctors' assistants. This course is given at the medical center in Poznan and lasts twelve months. After completing it they are appointed as regimental surgeons for which service they are supposed to be qualified. They are normally older men.

5. There is a group of civilian medical doctors who have completed their studies and belong to the state medical service (Panstwowa sluzba zdrowia). They are called up for shorter or longer service, according to their political point of

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view. After being called they are sent to the Poznan Medical Center for a military course, the length of the course depending on previous service. This course is ended by an examination which includes political questions. The doctors may state where they wish to serve, but those whose political soundness is in doubt are always sent as far from their homes as possible. Such doctors do not normally serve with regiments but at base hospitals and at Sluzba Polsce. Service with the SP brigades is usually only of six months, but that at base hospitals is one to three years. After such service they belong to the military medical reserve.

6. The fifth class consists of a comparatively few older doctors who have private practices. Unless they have political connections they are called for service like the previous group and assigned to base hospitals.

7. Polish military doctors are poorly paid. They begin as lieutenants with 800 zloty a month. In theory they can maintain private practices, but their time is so occupied that they have no real opportunity. There is never more than one doctor to a regiment, and there are frequent cases of garrisons where a single doctor serves the several regiments of the garrison.

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